

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

48. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid sequence encoding a fusion protein, said fusion protein comprising ~~an *atonal*-associated~~ a Math1 or a Hath1 amino acid sequence and an amino acid sequence that is not an *atonal*-associated amino acid sequence, wherein the amino acid sequence that is not an *atonal*-associated amino acid sequence comprises a receptor binding domain of a bacterial toxin or a protein transduction domain ~~wherein the *atonal*-associated amino acid sequence comprises about 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:58 and comprises at least about 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:70.~~

55. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising ~~an *atonal*-associated~~ a nucleic acid sequence encoding a Math1 or a Hath1 protein in combination with a delivery vehicle, wherein said delivery vehicle delivers ~~an *atonal*-associated~~ the nucleic acid sequence into a cell, wherein the composition further comprises an additional nucleic acid sequence encoding a receptor binding domain of a bacterial toxin or a protein transduction domain ~~that is not an *atonal*-associated nucleic acid sequence, wherein the *atonal*-associated amino acid sequence comprises about 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:58 and comprises at least about 80% identity to SEQ ID NO:70.~~

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 55 56, wherein the protein transduction domain comprises HIV Tat protein.

58. (New) The composition of claim 55, wherein the bacterial toxin is selected from the group consisting of exotoxin A, cholera toxin, and ricin.

59. (New) The nucleic acid sequence of claim 48, wherein the bacterial toxin is selected from the group consisting of exotoxin A, cholera toxin, and ricin.

60. (New) The nucleic acid sequence of claim 48, wherein the protein transduction domain comprises HIV Tat protein.